

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 14862 01 OF 03 250800Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10
AID-05 EB-08 ICA-20 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 XMB-04 OES-09 /130 W
-----104923 250807Z /12/21

R 240933Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0621
INFO USDA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 MANILA 14862

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING BANGKOK AS INFO ADDRESSEE)

STATE FOR FOOD POLICY AND IO

USDA/FAS FOR OICD AND ESCS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE 7TH SESSION

- OF THE FAO ASIA AND THE FAR EAST COMMISSION ON
- AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, BANGKOK, THAILAND
- AUGUST 17-23, 1978.

CHAIRMAN: EKTRITRA KOHKONGKA (SECRETARY GENERAL, NATIONAL

- STATISTICS OFFICE, GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND)

FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN: T. N. PANT (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,

- AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS SERVICE CENTER, NEPAL)

SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN: SAMPE TONAPA (DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTU-

- RAL STATISTICS, INDONESIA)

TECHNICAL SECRETARY: H. K. OH (REGIONAL STATISTICIAN, FAO,

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PAGE 02 MANILA 14862 01 OF 03 250800Z

- BANGKOK)

U.S. DELEGATION: ROGER P. LEWIS, HEAD OF DELEGATION/REPRE-

- SENTATIVE (OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE &
- DEVELOPMENT, USDA)

- WILLISZCSIGTON, ADVISOR (ECONOMIC, STATISTICAL &

- COOPERATIVE SERVICE, USDA)
- WARD HENDERSOCN BURLISOR (ECONOMIC, STATISTICAL &
- COOPERATIVE SERVICE (RET.) USDA); (CONSULTANT,
- NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE, BANGKOK)

1. THE 7TH SESSION OF THE FAO ASIA AND THE FAR EAST COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS WAS HELD IN BANGKOK, THAILAND, AUGUST 17-23, 1978. HIS EXCELLENCY, SUNTHORN HONGLADAROM, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THAILAND, OPENED THE SESSION.

2. REPRESENTATIVES FROM 12 NATIONS OF THE FAR EAST AND ASIAN REGION (BANGLADESH, BURMA, HONG KONG, INDONESIA, INDIA, JAPAN, KOREA, MALAYSIA, NEPAL, PHILIPPINES, SRI LANKA, THAILAND) ATTENDED THE SESSION, AS WELL AS NON-REGIONAL PARTICIPANTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES. IN ADDITION, THE SESSION WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF A NUMBER OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES INCLUDING THE ECO MIC & SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (VOWESCAP), THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP), THE U.N. ASIAN AND PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (UNAPDI), THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO), THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB), THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (ADC), THE STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA & THE

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PAGE 03 MANILA 14862 01 OF 03 250800Z

PACIFIC (SIAP), THE INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (IRRI), THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SEAFDEC), AND THE MEKONG COMMITTEE.

3. WORK OF FAO IN FOOD & AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS IN ASIA AND THE FAR EAST REGION.

- (1) A REVIEW WAS MADE OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE AREA OF STATISTICS -- GATHERING CAPABILITY AMONG COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. WHILE MOST REPORTED SOME PROGRESS, ALL INDICATED THERE WAS A CONTINUING NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT OF PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES, AND A NEED FOR MORE TIMELY AND SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY.

- B. VTR NEWS CLIPS: TV CLIP PLACEMENTS CONTINUED MEDIA SUPPORT OF OTHER MISSION ELEMENTS. POST CREW TAPED SIGNING OF AID-NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY LOAN AND PLACED CLIP ON FIVE MANILA CHANNELS. THE OPENING OF AN AID FUNDED FERTILITY CARE CENTER IN A MANILA LOW INCOME AREA DREW POST COVERAGE AND RESULTED IN PLACEMENT OF A THREE MINUTE SPOT ON THE EVENING NEWS. AND THE ICA MANILA PRODUCED FIVE PART

SERIES ON WOMEN WORKING IN SKILLED JOBS AT THE SUBIC
NAVAL BASE SHIP REPAIR FACILITY IS RUNNING NIGHTLY ON
CHANNEL 9.

- C. SPECIAL REQUEST: JULIAN V. CRUZ, SPECIAL
ASSISTANT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PRESS STAFF, MINISTRY
OF PUBLIC INFORMATION, MALACANANG PALACE REQUESTED
INFORMATION FROM TJCC ON JODY POWELL AND HAMILTON
JORDAN. HE WAS INTERESTED IN KNOWING ABOUT THEIR
WORKING HABITS, LIFE STYLE AND THE TASK THEY PERFORM
FOR PRESIDENT CARTER.

III. ABOUT ICA

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PAGE 04 MANILA 14862 01 OF 03 250800Z

- THE NEW THRUST OF ICA WAS THE SUBJECT OF ADDRESSES
BY THE PAO BEFORE TWO ROTARY GROUPS (SAN JUAN AND PANDAY
PIRA). STRESS WAS ON THE TWO-WAY INFORMATION AND CULTURAL
FLOW IN BOTH SPEECHES; AND POST RESOURCES (VTR, PERIODI-
CALS, AND OTHER LIBRARY MATERIALS) IN SUPPORT OF CP

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PAGE 01 MANILA 14862 02 OF 03 250802Z
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INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 XMB-04 OES-09 /130 W
-----104936 250808Z /21

R 240933Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0622
INFO USDA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 MANILA 14862

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING BANGKOK AS INFO ADDRESSEE)

STATE FOR FOOD POLICY AND IO

USDA/FAS FOR OICD AND ESCS

RABLE, AND SUGGESTED THAT SURVEYS SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SEASONAL CHARACTER OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION.

- (2) THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED STUDIES ON WAYS OF REDUCING THE REPORTING PERIOD FOR SURVEYS WITHOUT LOSING ACCURACY IN THE RESULTS.

- (3) THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOOD CONSUMPTION STATISTICS AT SMALL AREA OR VILLAGE LEVELS, WHILE SOLICITING THE COOPERATION OF THE VILLAGERS THEMSELVES IN THE COLLECTION OF THE DATA.

5. STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF DATA ON POST HARVEST FOOD GRAIN LOSSES.

- (1) THE COMMISSION NOTED THAT A CONSIDERABLE FRACTION OF THE TOTAL VOLUME OF CROP PRODUCTION WAS LOST BOTH AT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MANILA 14862 02 OF 03 250802Z

PRE-HARVEST AND POST-HARVEST STAGE. THE COMMISSION, HOWEVER, DIRECTED ITS ATTENTION TO POST HARVEST LOSSES, AND REAFFIRMED THE NEED FOR OBTAINING ESTIMATES OF POST HARVEST FOOD GRAIN LOSSES.

- (2) THE COMMISSION CONGRATULATED THE FAO FOR INITIATING THE PREPARATION OF A TECHNICAL MANUAL ON STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY FOR THE COLLECTION AND ASSESSMENT OF DATA ON POST HARVEST FOOD GRAIN LOSSES, AND RECOMMENDED ITS EARLY COMPLETION.

- (3) THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED CLOSER COLLABORATION BETWEEN STATISTICIANS, ECONOMISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS IN THE ASSESSMENT OF POST HARVEST LOSSES.

- (4) THE COMMISSION NOTED THAT POST HARVEST LOSS STUDIES SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO FOOD GRAINS, AND RECOMMENDED THAT THEY BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE OTHER IMPORTANT FOODS SUCH AS VEGETABLES, FRUITS, AND FISHERY PRODUCTS.

6. CROP FORECASTING: A STATISTICAL ASPECT OF A GLOBAL INFORMATION AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEM.

- (1) THE COMMISSION STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CROP FORECASTING, NOTING THAT SUCH FORECASTING COULD ENABLE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TIMELY COUNTER-MEASURES WHERE SHORTAGES OR SURPLUSES WERE FORECAST.

- (2) THE COMMISSION WAS INFORMED OF THE SUCCESSFUL USE OF SATELLITE IMAGERY IN THE U.S.A. FOR THE ESTIMATION OF CROP AREAS. THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THAT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF LANDSAT TECHNOLOGY BE CARRIED OUT WITH A VIEW TO OVERCOMING DIFFICULTIES DUE TO LAND COVER, SMALL FIELD SIZE,
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PAGE 03 MANILA 14862 02 OF 03 250802Z

THE PRESENCE OF MIXED CROPS, AND HIGH COST.

- (3) THE COMMISSION WAS INFORMED OF THE EXPERIMENTAL WORK BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE FAO ON CROP FORECASTING USING WEATHER DATA, AND THAT A REPORT WAS UNDER PREPARATION WHICH WOULD SHORTLY BE DISTRIBUTED.

- (4) THE FAO ALSO ANNOUNCED THE INTENT TO PREPARE A MANUAL ON METHODS OF CROP FORECASTING.

7. PROMOTION OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE 1980 WORLD CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE.

- (1) THE COMMISSION URGED MEMBER COUNTRIES TO FULLY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FAO ASSISTANCE IN THE PREPARATION OF THE 1980 WORLD CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE, AND NOTED THE EXISTENCE OF STATISTICAL TRAINING CENTERS IN THE U.S., SIAP, INDIA, JAPAN, THE U.K. AND THE PHILIPPINES. IT RECOMMENDED THE GREATER USE OF STATISTICAL TRAINING CENTERS IN COUNTRIES OF ASIA AND THE FAR EAST, THEREBY FACILITATING GREATER TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES.

8. STATISTICS ON SMALL FARMERS' DEVELOPMENT

- (1) THE COMMISSION WAS INFORMED ABOUT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN AGRARIAN REFORM HELD IN BANGKOK 8 TO 16 MAY 1978, TO DESIGN A SYSTEM FOR COLLECTING COMMUNITY LEVEL STATISTICS WITH LOCAL PARTICIPATION ON A CONTINUING BASIS. IT WAS ALSO INFORMED ABOUT A PROJECT PROPOSED UNDER FAO AUSPICES AND TO BE FUNDED BY THE LINCOLN UNIVERSITY (USA), THE OUTPUT OF WHICH WOULD BE SUSJOBVDESIGN AS WOULD PROVIDE DATA COMPARABILITY WITHIN THE REGION.

- (2) THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THAT THE FAO SHOULD PREPARE GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SYSTEM OF
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PAGE 04 MANILA 14862 02 OF 03 250802Z

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PAGE 01 MANILA 14862 03 OF 03 250804Z

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INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 XMB-04 OES-09 /130 W
-----104948 250809Z /12/21

R 240933Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0623
INFO USDA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING BANGKOK AS INFO ADDRESSEE)

STATE FOR FOOD POLICY AND IO

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COMMUNITY STATISTICS, BASED ON LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN
BOTH THE COLLECTION AND USE OF THE STATISTICS.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- (1) THE COMMISSION ACCEPTED THE OFFER OF NEPAL TO HOST
THE NEXT (EIGHTH) SESSION OF THE COMMISSION IN KATHMANDU,
NEPAL, IN 1980. THE COMMISSION ALSO ACCEPTED THE INVITA-
TION FROM BANGLADESH TO HOST THE SUBSEQUENT (NINTH)
SESSION IN BANGLADESH IN 1982.

- (2) THE U.S. DELEGATION NOTED A NUMBER OF SERVICES
AVAILABLE ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS THROUGH THE U.S. DEPART-
MENT OF AGRICULTURE, INCLUDING TECHNICAL EXPERTS THROUGH
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS; THE AVAILABILITY OF TRAINING
COURSES BOTH IN THE U.S. AND THE LDC'S, ALSO ON A RE-
IMBURSABLE BASIS; AND THE AVAILABILITY OF LANDSAT
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PAGE 02 MANILA 14862 03 OF 03 250804Z

SERVICES ON A COOPERATIVE BASIS, TO ASSIST IN FRAME CONSTRUCTION, AREA FRAME SAMPLING, AND IN SMALL AREA DATA ACCUMULATION.

- (3) ALTHOUGH THE COMMISSION SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN THESE AND IN LANDSAT POTENTIAL, SOME DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT LANDSAT WAS NOT YET A "CATCH-ALL" IN FORECASTING TECHNIQUE. SEVERAL OF THE DELEGATES (NEPAL AND SRI LANKA) WILL VISIT THE U.S. LATER THIS YEAR TO EXPLORE COOPERATIVE POSSIBILITIES. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, AGRICULTURE, DATA, MEETING DELEGATIONS, COMMISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANILA14862
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780351-0317, D780346-0707
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780828/aaaaaxmd.tel
Line Count: 342
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1634683
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE 7TH SESSION - OF THE FAO ASIA AND THE FAR EAST COMMISSION ON - AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, BANGKOK, THAILAN
TAGS: EAGR, US, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/350da45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014